

NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

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6 DEC 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Secretary Gilpatric's Proposal for NRP
Review Committee

1. I do not know the background of Mr. Gilpatric's proposal except that I gather that McMillan had a hand in drafting it. Perhaps it represents your understanding of how we were going to implement the active review concepts put forward at the budget meeting. However, it certainly is not my concept of what we decided on and goes a fair way toward undoing the controls we decided to establish over NRO.

2. Your first letter specifically mentioned regular meetings between Mr. Gilpatric and yourself to provide policy guidance to McMillan and review the over-all NRP as the stock owning directors.


3. In addition, it was agreed that Fubini and I would work with the NRO more frequently and presumably on a more technical plane. It is my understanding that I am to "wear your cloth", as Fubini does McNamara's in a series of regular and irregular inquiries into NRO affairs. The responsibility is yours alone, but experience has shown clearly that without this delegation one cannot penetrate the entire program to provide you with adequate staff support.

4. Two things are wrong with the Gilpatric/McMillan proposal:

a. It subordinates Fubini and myself to McMillan when in fact we are trying to provide constructive inquiry and criticism of his program.

b. The charter for the NRP Review Committee is circumscribed, and does not include such key

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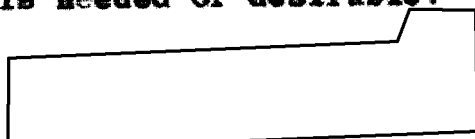
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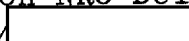
items as management change procedures (such as COBONA, technical health of going programs (i.e., CORONA J), etc., which are certainly part of my responsibility in supporting you - and in fact occupied most of our first meeting yesterday.

5. I believe that these deficiencies have not escaped McMillan. Being the kind of autocratic manager he is, it is understandable that he is not anxious to have a pair of overseers. However, his record to date shows that this is just what he needs and you will only negate that by signing this directive in hand. I suggest that you call Gilpatric back indicating that the meetings already seem to be well started and that no structuring or chartering is needed or desirable.

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ALBERT D. WHEELON
Deputy Director
(Science & Technology)

cc: DDCI

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